

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Tuesday, July 10, 2012, marks the first anniversary of the death of Methuselah, the giant Galapagos Tortoise who delighted visitors for more than half a century at the Black Hills Reptile Gardens in Rapid City, South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Methuselah was born in 1881 in the Galapagos Islands and became a resident of South Dakota in 1954; and,

Whereas, Methuselah provided joy, entertainment, and educational experience for hundreds of thousands of visitors to Reptile Gardens; and,

Whereas, Tens of thousands of children had their first experience with exotic wildlife by petting Methuselah; and,

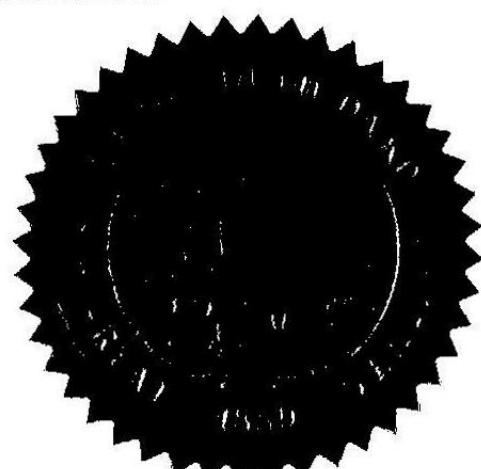
Whereas, Methuselah was one of the most photographed animals in the United States; and,

Whereas, The death of Methuselah in 2011, at age 130, made national headlines, as generations of Americans considered Methuselah to be an old, good friend:

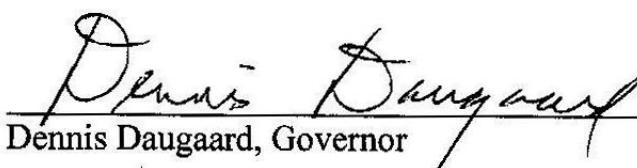
Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 10, 2012, as

METHUSELAH DAY

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourteenth Day of June in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.



Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:



Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State